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1956

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to which is appended the Report

of the

ENGINEER & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

of the

RURAL DISTRICT

of

MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH

Norfolk.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

A. B. GUILD, M.B., CH. B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Engineer & Public Health Inspector

R. L. BARKER, A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

G. DAVIES, M.A.P.H.I.

MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH FOR 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1956.

The estimated mid-year population of the district was 18,300, a decrease of 90 as compared with the previous year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

276 births, of which 13 were illegitimate, were registered during the year, and there were 212 deaths from all causes.

The birth rate, 15.08, has increased by 1.32 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1955, and is still lower than the England and Wales rate 15.7.

There were 6 still births during the year giving a rate of 0.33 as compared with 0.38 last year. The England and Wales rate was 0.37.

The births comparability factor, the ratio of the national to the local fertility index, remained the same at 1.17.

The number of deaths, 212, was 16 more than in 1955 and gives a rate of 11.58, an increase of 0.92. The deaths comparability factor was again 0.83. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.73. The increase in deaths was almost entirely due to 16 more coming under the category "other heart disease".

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age was 6, giving an infant mortality rate of 21.74 which is the second lowest figure recorded in the district. The England and Wales rate was 23.9.

The causes of death were congenital pyloric stenosis (operation), (2) meningitis and rupture of meningocele with hydrocephalus (3) microcephaly (4) Immaturity (5) cerebral shock associated with delivery, (6) congenital myelomeningocele.

Infectious diseases were responsible for the following deaths - tuberculosis 1, influenza 6 and pneumonia 5.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of notifications received during the year was 166, of which scarlet fever accounted for 43, measles 50 and dysentery 48.

Scarlet Fever - The number of cases, 43, was much higher than for some considerable time. In fact one has to go back to 1941 to find such a high incidence.

The cases were distributed mainly over the middle part of the year with 6 cases in April, 8 in May, 7 in June, 7 in July, and 6 in August. All were mild in character and consequently effective isolation from the other members of the family could not be maintained for long.

Quite a large number of the cases attended Dereham Modern Secondary (Girls) School, or had some connection with this school. Swabbing of selected classes, teaching and canteen staff, did not yield any important information.

Measles - There was a sharp outbreak of measles in the Hardingham area in July (33 cases) and August (6 cases). It is not clear why, with so many susceptible children in the community, measles did not become more widespread.

Dysentery - This disease occurred in the main in two parishes and for convenience may be referred to as the Colkirk and Rougham outbreaks.

Colkirk Outbreak. This arose after a party on 9. 1. 56 given to a Sunday School class of 13 children all aged 8 years. Within 48 hours of the party 11 children developed symptoms of dysentery and 7 other cases developed in the families of the affected children in a week. At least 6 other cases of dysentery occurred in the village later in the month.

The food for the party was prepared by a lady and her daughter, and served by this daughter and a girl friend. None of these three had any symptoms at the time of or prior to the party. The daughter developed symptoms of dysentery on 18. 1. 56, and the mother on 19. 1. 56.

It was interesting to note that this home was exceedingly well kept and I have no doubt that the lady was scrupulously clean in her habits.

Prior to 9.1.56 there had been several small parties in this home at Christmas time but no history of any illness following these parties was obtained.

From the clinical angle the cases were not severe and exclusion from school, until 3 negative laboratory reports were obtained, was generally practised.

The long duration of the possible infectious nature of Sonne dysentery is shown by the fact that the causal organism was isolated from one girl more than 11 weeks after the initial onset of symptoms. This fact has to be considered in relation to the loss of education which will result from a lengthy exclusion from school.

Rougham Outbreak. This occurred in August and the preliminary investigations suggested that this was possibly a milk borne outbreak. Part of the village takes pasteurised milk; the other part takes non-pasteurised milk produced at a local farm. The cowman at this farm admitted to having had gastro-intestinal trouble a few days before the outbreak, and his son had had similar trouble earlier in the month. The causative organism was isolated from the faeces in each case.

In view of the history the cowman was immediately taken off all duties connected with the production of milk, and the outbreak soon came to an end.

The causal organism was isolated from 9 cases in the village and at the same time 3 cases of dysentery occurred in a family at Litcham. These were relations of the cowman and had visited his home several times during the month concerned.

It is probable that there were other mild cases who did not report the illness to the family doctor.

It was interesting to note that some of the mothers assured me that they boiled the raw milk - only, as a rule, after taking the "top off".

All the cases of dysentery occurred in families where raw milk was used - surely a tribute to the value of pasturisation.

I stated in my Annual Report for 1955 that Sonne dysentery was highly infective and was becoming a widely prevalent endemic disease.

In 1956 the dysentery was mild in character and there is a natural tendency not to consult the family doctor for what appears to be a slight attack of diarrhoea. On the other hand the disease can be serious to the young and old. The mildness of the disease often leads to neglect of elementary precautions and the spread throughout the other members of the family. The family doctor should therefore be consulted in cases of diarrhoea as these are mostly of an infectious nature. Special attention to personal hygiene should become a habit; the washing of hands after every visit to the toilet and before handling food should be instilled into every child as early as possible. This applies equally to mothers and others concerned with the preparation and handling of meals.

Attention must also be given to lavatory seats, chains, etc. Soap and water are just as important as disinfectants in this connection.

Flies can play a part in the spread of the disease at some seasons of the year. They should be kept away from excreta and food: anti-fly measures are therefore indicated.

Finally, put the lid down on the seat. It is not uncommon in housing inspections to note the contents of the pail exposed to everything.

Whooping Cough - As will be noted the incidence of this disease was very low. This can not yet be attributed to immunisation measures.

Food Poisoning - Only 1 case was notified. This occurred in a boy aged  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years who had come to the district on a fortnight's holiday. He had been ill before leaving home with "dysentery". *Salmonella typhimurium* was isolated by the Public Health Laboratory soon after his arrival here and clinical recovery was rapid. Although his parents had never had any symptoms their faeces were positive to the same organism.

The incidence of the notifiable diseases is given in the following tables, the first giving the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the previous three years, and the second table giving the age distribution.

Disease	1956	1955	1954	1953	Notifcn. Rate per 1,000 pop.	
					M. & L.	E. & W.
Scarlet fever	43	6	20	7	2.33	0.73
Measles	50	7	132	17	2.79	3.55
Whooping cough	3	43	50	75	0.16	2.00
Diphtheria	-	-	1	-		
Pneumonia	16	15	7	6	0.87	0.57
Erysipelas	1	1	2	-		
Meningitis	-	1	1	-		
Infectious hepatitis	1	1	3	11		
Dysentery	48	10	-	2	2.62	1.08
Food Poisoning	1	8	1	-		
Poliomyelitis	1	2	3	2		
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	3	-		
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	-	-	-		
Total	166	94	223	120		

Disease	Age Group												
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
Scarlet fever	-	1	1	3	1	16	18	1	1	1	-	-	-
Measles	1	2	5	5	3	23	9	1	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	-	-	2	1	7
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Infectious													
Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	1	1	2	-	-	16	4	6	7	1	4	3	3
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pelionmyclitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal													
pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia													
neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	7	9	9	5	56	34	9	9	3	7	4	11

### TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 16 cases were added to the register, of whom 9 were inward transfers.

The comparative figures for the preceding three years were 1953. - 14, 1954 - 20, 1955 - 6.

The distribution of the 16 cases by age and sex is given in the following table :-

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-5		a		
5-15		a		1
16-25	a	1 + 3a	1	
26-35		2 + 2a		
36-45				1
46-55	a			
56-65				
66 and over	1		1	2
	1 + 2a	3 + 7a		

(a) denotes 1 inward transfer.

There was one death from tuberculosis during the year.

The numbers remaining on the register were :-

	Respiratory			Non-respiratory			Grand
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
31.12.55	28	20	48	15	16	31	79
31.12.56	25	25	50	14	16	30	80

The statistics for the County of Norfolk per 1,000 of the population in 1955 are given below with the data for Mitford and Launditch in brackets for purposes of comparison.

#### Formal Notifications

Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-respiratory	Case Rate
149 (4)	0.39 (0.24)	(3)	(0.18)

The mortality figures for the same period were

Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-respiratory	Case Rate
21 (1)	0.05 (0.06)	3 (0)	0.01 (0)

#### B.C.G. VACCINATION

Tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccination were carried out again on children aged 14 years and over at the four largest schools in the district. The acceptances were 57%.

The results are tabulated below :-

School	Refusals	Acceptances	Vaccinated	Tuberculin Test after Vaccination
		Primary Tuberculin Test +		
Dereham Girls' High	58	10      23 (10 screened later).	23	18
Dereham M.S. Girls	59	18      26 (12 screened later).	25	25

School	Refusals	Acceptances			Vac-cinated	Tuberculin Test after Vaccination
		Primary	Tuberculin	Test		
		+	-	-		
Dereham M.S. Boys	18	25	32		31	30
Litcham area	9	6	18	(5 screened later).	18	18

Dr. G. F. Barran, Chest Physician for the area, very kindly screened those children whose primary tuberculin test was positive. In all cases the X-ray appearance was within normal limits.

#### Cancer of the Lung.

It is disturbing to record that 7 deaths were due to malignant disease of the lung or bronchus (6 males and 1 female), the highest figure in the past 6 years, whereas there has been a fall in the total number of deaths due to cancer. In other words 3.3% of the deaths in this rural district were due to cancer of the lung or bronchus. The ages at death were M.48, 55, 57, 60, 68, 68, F. 76.

That there is a strong connection between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung can hardly be doubted. Early diagnosis is not easy and once diagnosed the success of treatment is problematical.

The education of the young adolescent in the risks attached to cigarette smoking is essential but I must admit it will be a difficult job to convince adolescents that a habit they may acquire now will probably have serious consequences 35, 40 or more years later.

## Causes of Death.

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General :-

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	2	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	1	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant lymphatic neoplasms	7	7	14
Leukaemia	-	2	2
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	20	33
Coronary disease, angina	15	8	23
Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	4
Other heart disease	24	23	47
Other circulatory disease	4	1	5
Influenza	3	3	6
Pneumonia	4	1	5
Bronchitis	6	2	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	3	5
Other defined and ill defined diseases	8	13	21
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents	2	4	6
Suicide	1	-	1
	114	98	212

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	102,371
Population (estimated mid-1956).	18,300
Rateable Value (1st. April, 1957). £	82,932
Estimated product of a penny rate (1st. April 1957). £	342

## MEDICAL STATISTICS

Extracts from vital statistics for the year, relating to the net births and deaths after correction for outward and inward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar General.

	Males	Females	Total	Mitford & Launditch		England & Wales
				1956	1955	1956
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>						
Legitimate	138	125	263			
Illegitimate	6	7	13			
Total	144	132	276			
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				15.08	13.76	15.7

	Males	Females	Total	Mitford & Launditch		England & Wales
				1956	1955	1956
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>						
Legitimate	3	3	6			
Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Total	3	3	6			
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				0.33	0.38	0.37

	Males	Females	Total	Mitford & Launditch		England & Wales
				1956	1955	1956
<u>DEATHS</u> (All ages)						
	114	98	212			
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				11.58	10.66	11.73

	Males	Females	Total	Mitford & Launditch		England & Wales	
				1956	1955	1956	1955
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (under 1 year)							
Legitimate	3	1	4				
Illegitimate	1	1	2				
Total	4	2	6				
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births				21.74	27.7	23.9	

### Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme

The following immunisations were carried out during the year by general practitioners and the Assistant County Medical Officer.

	Under 1.	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	74	44	7	6	6	80	6	223
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	3	136	115	254
Total								477

In the first years of life the immunisations are combined against both diphtheria and whooping cough unless the child has previously had whooping cough.

### Vaccination

The number of vaccinations was slightly more than last year.

	Under 1 year.	1	2-4	5-14	15 & over	Total
Primary	75	4	3	1	5	88
Revaccinations	-	-	-	1	7	8

## Polio Vaccinations

Polio vaccination was offered to children born in the years 1947 - 1954 inclusive. During this period 3163 births were registered and there were 1078 acceptances giving an acceptance rate of 31% approximately, a figure which compared favourably with the other districts of the County.

In an innovation of this nature it was not surprising to find that parents were unwilling to have the younger age children vaccinated and the acceptance rate is shown as under :-

Born in	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
	12.3%	19.4%	20%	21.2%	42.3%	49.9%	52.5%	50.4%

The course had to be completed by the end of June, 1956, and consisted of two injections for children born in selected months in selected years. 7 children received 1 injection and 109 children received 2 injections. No reactions of any importance were encountered.

## HOUSING

The number of houses erected in 1956 was

1) By the Council	20
2) By private enterprise	23

The number of applicants on the housing list at 31st. December, 1956, was 278, an appreciable increase over the preceding year.

The number of houses built by the Council is - pre-war 353; post-war 524.

## Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Two new cases of tuberculosis in milk herds were notified during the year. The restriction notices on these herds and the one case remaining on 31. 12. 55 have now been removed as the offending animals have been dealt with.

The restriction notices still remain on the two old cases of Brucella Abortus infection in milk which remained on at 31. 12. 55.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

### Part 1 of the Act.

#### 1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Number of written notices	Occup- iers pro- secuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	4	7	5	Nil
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	54	102	-	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	Nil	Nil	-	Nil
Total	58	109	5	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	5	5	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) Insufficient	14	14	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-
Total	22	22	-	-

No prosecutions were instituted under the Acts.

During the year your Medical Officer of Health again carried out the duties of Appointed Factory Doctor.

171 juveniles from the area for which he is responsible were examined for fitness for employment, and 70 of these were resident in Mitford and Launditch.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

Local Health Services under Part III.

Domestic Help Service

41 occasional home helps were employed during the year and 53 cases were assisted in the Mitford and Launditch district.

## Mental Health - Administration

Mr. A. Boothman, Welfare Officer, remained in charge.

41 cases were admitted to mental hospitals, 29 of these being voluntary patients, 8 certified and 4 dealt with under Section 20.

## Mental Defectives

The following cases were visited and reported on periodically :-

Under statutory supervision	39
Under friendly supervision	12
Under guardianship	2

6 children attend occupation centres and 7 receive training at home.

One low grade defective was certified and admitted to a colony. The guardianship order was revoked in one case and the defective readmitted to a colony.

## Old People's Welfare

There are now 10 old people's clubs in the area, two of these having been formed during the past year.

## National Assistance Act, 1948

No new cases were dealt with during the year. The old lady referred to in last year's Annual Report is still at Beech House, Gressenhall. Application for her continued retention is made to the Magistrates' Court every three months.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. GUILD.  
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the Year 1956

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. W. H. Edwards retired on 7th. August and I took up the appointment as your Engineer and Senior Public Health Inspector on the 8th. I am indebted to Mr. Edwards for notes on the work of the Department up to the time of his retirement which have enabled me to compile this report.

On 2nd. August, Royal Assent was received to a Bill changing the designation "Sanitary Inspector" to "Public Health Inspector". This follows the modern aversion to the word "sanitary", and the Sanitary Inspectors' working Party set up by the Government considered that the designation contributed to the poor recruitment. It was necessary for an amending Bill to be introduced to Parliament as there is legislation containing references to Sanitary Inspectors.

Under proposals made by the Minister, in agreement with interested bodies, arising out of the recommendations of the Working Party on the recruitment, training and qualification of sanitary inspectors, the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board has been reconstituted as the Public Health Inspectors Education Board. The objects of the new Board may be summarised as follows:-

- (i) To examine for and issue a Diploma in Public Health Inspection as the basic qualification to be recognised by the Minister;
- (ii) To examine for other certificates it may consider necessary for public health inspectors;
- (iii) To approve courses of instruction for all its examinations;
- (iv) To approve local authorities for the purposes of practical training; and
- (v) To keep under review all questions relating to the recruitment, training and examination of public health inspectors.

With regard to paragraph (iii) local authorities are reminded of the Working Party's recommendation that the system of paid pupillage for public health inspectors should be extended with the prospect of its ultimately becoming the normal avenue of entry, except for ex-Service candidates, and that practical training for student inspectors should be obtained in the service of local authorities approved for the purpose by the new Education Board. The Minister supports the view of the Working Party that the best training is obtained by those students who are engaged by a local authority specifically as pupils or student public health inspectors and has no doubt that local authorities will bear the recommendation in mind, and consider the advantages of adopting a system of paid pupillage or, where appropriate, of extending existing arrangements.

To bring the Department up to the new establishment your Committee decided to appoint a Second Additional Public Health Inspector and advertised the post on the salary scale appropriate to Inspectors without the meat inspectors qualification. No applications were received. The post was readvertised within both scales at a starting salary to be determined according to qualification and experience. Two applications were received, one of whom was invited for interview but had by then accepted another appointment. It was decided therefore to re-advertise early in 1957.

This shortage of staff, coupled with the changeover in the Department, has resulted in a drop in the amount of routine inspection work carried out in the district.

### Water Supplies

During the year the Minister of Housing & Local Government circularised all water undertakings suggesting that consideration be given to grouping with other undertakings to form units "large enough for local sources to be developed to the best advantage, for major capital works to be financed and supervised and for expert full-time staff (including engineers, chemists and accountants) to be employed, which is needed for the safe and economic conduct of the undertakings".

The Council's Water Committee considered this circular and decided to await recommendations of a Technical Panel for Norfolk which has been set up under the leadership of the County Council.

The following notes are submitted on the position to date and the organisation of the Water Department.

#### GENERAL

Due to the isolated nature of the centres of population, the Council considered that the area could best be served by village schemes, with one headworks to each village or in a few instances to two villages, and that outlying farms could be most economically served by individual bores with A.E.C. grants. As boreholes had been developed on post war housing sites in almost all villages, it was hoped to utilise these sources, and any new borings made after the determination of this policy were carried out with this in mind. Only in the parishes of Litcham and Mattishall were existing bores found inadequate. It was also decided that, except in the largest villages, storage would not be provided but pressure sets would be installed.

Work commenced in late, 1953, and has been progressing steadily until the introduction of national restriction of capital expenditure. At present, three schemes for four villages are awaiting Ministry approval, and five villages have been selected for schemes as the restriction eases. Originally, the three now at the Ministry were programmed for 1956 - 57, and the others for 1957 - 58.

There has been no duplication of equipment at the headworks, but two new pumps are in stock, which have been selected for the range of duty required, and would be used as temporary replacement in the event of breakdown, whilst the unit is undergoing repairs.

A monthly analysis is made of meter readings, hours pumped etc., in respect of each station to reduce the risk of unexpected breakdown.

A small direct labour force of a foreman, a fitter, and two labourers is employed to carry out day to day maintenance, mains flushing and repairs, including pump lifting, and has been equipped to tackle emergencies. Stores are held to repair all sizes and types of mains installed. The majority of the work of laying the communication pipes has been carried out by this staff.

The headworks are automatic and are normally visited monthly for routine checks. Monthly bacteriological samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Norwich. The water is untreated, except at Beeston, where an iron removal plant is being installed. The presence of iron in some of the supplies although not harmful to health, gives rise to an unpleasant appearance tending to discolour sanitary fittings and also clothes when used for laundering.

During the year, in co-operation with the Housing Committee, experiments were carried out at the East Tuddenham housing site to see if an economic solution could be found to this problem where pressure sets are in use. This site was chosen because of the very high iron content. The water, as pumped, contains a colourless iron compound in solution. On exposure to air this compound changes to a brown insoluble form which produces the staining effect.

The usual treatment consists of aeration of the water, causing the soluble iron to change into an insoluble form, which is removed by filtration. This would not be economic where pressure sets are used on our housing sites and small works, both from the aspect of initial expenditure and of maintenance. It would involve the installation of a storage tank into which the water would be sprayed, and from which a second pump in addition to that in the borehole would deliver through a pressure filter into the supply system. Regular flushing every two or three days for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour would be necessary, for which local labour might be utilised.

Means are being sought by which the storage tank and second pump are not needed. The first attempt was by using filtration without aeration, and although sample reports were better, much of the iron was passing the filter in solution.

Secondly, Messrs. Albright & Wilson advised on the use of Calgon which was added by means of a special dispenser loaned free of charge for the purpose. The principle of this method is the "fixing" of the iron in solution, so that it does not produce the brown insoluble compound on exposure to air. Unfortunately, this only works for small quantities of iron, and also tends to break down when the water is heated. Our trials were again unsuccessful, mainly because of the high iron content.

An approach was then made to Messrs. Silical Ltd. who offered a softener on the trial or return basis, and they felt reasonably confident of success although they would have preferred the water to have been aerated first.

These experiments are continuing, although from the results at present obtained I am not very hopeful.

The housing site boreholes at Lt. Fransham, Weasenham All Saints, and Lyng were test pumped during the year, and were found to be able to provide an adequate supply for village schemes, although the Fransham sample showed a high iron content. These results were submitted to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and approval sought to proceed with the village schemes.

All the post war Council houses have a supply from a borehole and pressure set on the Site and where public mains have become available taps have been installed over the sinks in the pre war Council houses at Hockering, Lt. Dunham, Whissonsett, Shipdham, (except for a 10 house site awaiting improved drainage facilities which are in hand) Mattishall and one site at Litcham. The other site at Litcham has a drainage problem and the houses have been provided with a standpipe only near each back door.

#### SCHEMES AVAILABLE, IN PROGRESS, OR PROGRAMMED

##### Available

Colkirk, Lt. Dunham, North Elmham,  
Hockering, Litcham, Mattishall, Milham,  
Rougham, Shipdham, Swanton Morley,  
Whissonsett.

Total parishes

11

SCHEMES AVAILABLE, IN PROGRESS, OR PROGRAMMED

Cont'd

<u>Available</u>		Total parishes	...	11
<u>In progress</u>	Beeston	Total parishes	...	1
<u>Programmed</u>	a) Awaiting approval - Weasenham All Saints & St. Peter, (1. scheme) Lt. Fransham and Lyng.	Total parishes	...	4
	b) Selected by Council - Bawdeswell, Bintree Gt. Dunham, Tittleshall and Scarning	Total parishes	...	5
		Total parishes in these stages	...	<u>21</u>
		Total parishes in district	...	<u>47</u>

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

<u>Group</u>	No.	<u>VILLAGE SCHEMES</u>		
		<u>Avail- able</u>	<u>Near- ing comple- tion</u>	<u>Pro- gram- med</u>
A. Parishes less than 100	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
B. " between 100 and 500	31	5	1	7
C. " " 500 and 750	9	3	Nil	2
D. " " 750 and 1000	2	2	Nil	Nil
E. " over 1000	1	1	Nil	Nil
Totals	47	11	1	9

PARTICULARS OF PREMISES

No. in district	... 5820
No. in parishes where supply is available	... 2195
No. to which supply is available	... 1784 = 81%
No. which cannot be offered supply	... 411 = 19%
No. where supply will be available on completion of work at Beeston	... 2269
No. where supply will be available on completion of work at Weasenhams, Fransham and Lyng	... 2513
No. of premises supplied	... 1249
No. of applications for connections pending	... 76

Attention is drawn to the fact that the majority of villages not provided with mains water have post war housing sites which have a borehole and pressure set supply.

SUMMARY OF MAINS  
(Miles)

Parish	Asbestos Cement Class B. 3"	Spun Iron 3"	Class B. 4"	5"	Total
Colkirk	1.2				1.2
Lt. Dunham			0.75		0.75
North Elmham	1.8				1.8
Hockering	0.8				0.8
Litcham		1.2	0.4		1.6
Mattishall		2.4	1.0		3.4
	- 3.8 -	3.6	2.15		9.55

Parish	Asbestos Cement	Spun Iron Class B			Total
	Class B. 3"	3"	4"	5"	
	3.8	3.6	2.15		9.55
Mileham	1.0				1.0
Rougham	0.5				0.5
Shipdham	0.13	1.9	0.35	0.77	3.15
Swanton Morley	2.6				2.6
Whissonsett	1.5				1.5
Scarning		0.05	0.1		0.15
Beeston	1.5				1.5
Totals	11.03	5.55	2.6	0.77	19.95

#### SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Parish	No. of Connec- tions	Estimated Pop: Supplied	No. of Meters	Gallons Pumped	Gallons Purchased
Hockering	67	216	4	783,549	Nil
Litcham	135	435	6	1,129,860	Nil
Mattishall	184	593	16	2,664,180	Nil
North Elmham	187	602	10	2,707,425	Nil
Lt. Dunham	53	170	6	Nil	508,150
Rougham	65	209	3	594,014	Nil
Shipdham	201	647	10	Nil	1,718,000
Whissonsett	102	328	6	1,119,836	Nil
Swanton Morley	67	216	6	295,124	Nil
Scarning	20	64	-	Nil	300,000
Mileham	75	241	9	403,014	Nil
Colkirk	93	299	1	487,127	Nil
Totals	1249	4020	77	10,184,129	2,526,150 12,710,279

Total average gallons per day - 36,398  
Average gallons per head per day for district - 9.82

### Private Water Supplies

During the year 68 samples were taken as under:-

Wells	...	48.	Satisfactory	...	20
			Unsatisfactory	...	27
			Suspicious	...	1

Bores	...	20.	Satisfactory	...	13
			Unsatisfactory	...	7

### Sewers and sewage disposal

The Council has no public sewage disposal works, but has a number of ditches, both open and piped, into which sink wastes find their way. In many cases these ditches take road surface water and there are agreements with the Highways Department whereby the cost of cleaning out periodically is shared. Ditches at N. Elmham; Twyford Road, Bintree; Litcham; Mattishall Burgh; and Watton Road, Shipdham were cleaned out during the year. 82 visits were made concerning ditches during the year.

During January and February, trouble was again experienced on the overland section of Scarning sewer which froze due to the severe weather. Emergency action was taken and sanitary pails issued. 3 lengths (about 50 ft.) of sewer cracked and was renewed. Advice was sought from the Consulting Engineers, Messrs. W. Herbert Bateman & Partners, who took levels on the sewer and expressed the view that a slight subsidence had occurred on the 2 piers on either side of the stream crossing, making that section flat. Coupled with the small daily flow which is not sufficient to achieve a self cleansing velocity, this causes build-up of solids, causing blockage. Consideration was given to adapting the highest chamber on the line as a flushing tank so that in periods of cold weather it could be filled and then suddenly discharged to achieve a cleansing velocity but was found not to be economically practical.

It was therefore decided that the Water Department flush the water main into the sewer as often as required during the cold weather to keep it clear. This was done at the end of the year, but weather conditions did not occur which would cause the freezing. 59 visits were made in this connection.

### Drainage

A further 63 existing houses installed W.C's. and drainage systems during the year including those in receipt of improvement grants. Direct connections into ditches from the septic tanks are not permitted and effluent disposal is into the sub-soil, either by soakage pits or agricultural drains. Subsoils vary considerably throughout the district but even the best will eventually become clogged with grease and humus so that further soakage areas will need to be constructed. I feel that this is a problem with which we shall be faced in the future with private properties, and with which we are now concerned on many of our housing sites. Advice is given to construct a chamber designed to remove the humus which can be cleaned out from time to time, and thus prolong the soakage efficiency.

Certain installations at Litcham and N. Elmham housing sites require emptying every 10 days and it may be anticipated that this will become even more frequent. Such action as can be taken here will only be palliative until the credit restrictions ease and the Council can go forward with village sewerage schemes.

Works have been carried out by the Housing Officer in consultation with this Department for the improvement of drainage disposal on various sites, consisting, in the main, of extra soakage area, or installations designed to remove the suspended solids to facilitate better soakage.

No complaints were received concerning the Beeston Cannery disposal works during the year and it is understood that the firm is co-operating with the River Board to prevent fouling of the river. 123 visits were made.

## Refuse Collection

The collection was efficiently maintained throughout the year by Mr. W. Feeke, in the parish of Litcham and Messrs. Edwin Clark Ltd. for the remainder of the area. Such complaints as arose were usually due to a misunderstanding, or the fact that the premises were inaccessible. I regret to note that dustbins are the exception rather than the rule and that all types of container are in use. This, apart from being an eyesore, is conducive to fly breeding, and also present dangerous conditions for the men handling the refuse.

## Refuse disposal

Refuse pits are in use at Lyng, N. Elmham, Beeston, Horningtoft, Mileham, Shipdham and Litcham. These are maintained by the Contractors who experience difficulty in obtaining sufficient covering material. The Divisional Surveyor is most co-operative with surplus soil from roadworks and although the tips could be improved, they are maintained in a reasonable condition, taking all factors into account. Infestations are controlled by the application of tip dressing and the rat catchers pay frequent visits. The problem of keeping the pits tidy is not assisted by their being raked over by various persons. Consideration was given to the erection of notices prohibiting such activities and indiscriminate dumping and a decision is awaited as to whether this would be in the terms of the lease or administration of the land concerned.

Lyng pit was on fire for a considerable period but no damage was caused to persons, crops or property.

## Night soil collection

A weekly night soil collection has been carried out during the year under contract by Mr. W. Feeke, in Litcham and Messrs. Edwin Clark Ltd. in the remainder of the district.

The cesspool emptying service by which each cesspool is emptied twice free of charge on request in the twelve months from 1st. June each year has been continued. 1,255 cesspools were emptied during the year.

128 visits were made in connection with the Refuse and Night soil collection services, including inspections of tips.

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Your Council employ three full time rat catchers who cover the whole area. A summary of visits and treatments carried out by them is given below:-

Type of Property	No. Inspected	Infestation		Treated	
		Major	Minor	Major	Minor
L.A.	76	2	51	2	51
Dwellings	13,212	3	2,576	3	2,500
Agricultural	1,658	-	24	-	20
Business Premises	573	-	8	-	8
Totals	15,519	5	2,659	5	2,579

### Housing & Public Health Acts

No. of complaints investigated	...	57
No. of inspections and re-inspections	...	483
No. of Moveable Dwellings inspected	...	73
Informal requests to carry out work of repair etc.	...	62
Work completed as a result of above	...	49
Statutory Notices served	...	Nil
Work completed	...	Nil

No. of houses considered incapable of being made fit at a reasonable expense	...	50
Demolition Orders made	...	38
Closing Orders made	...	1
Derelict houses demolished	...	7
Undertakings not to re-let accepted	...	5

#### Housing Acts, 1949 & 1954 - Improvement Grants

Total dwellings for which grant approved to date	...	115
" " " " " during 1956	...	49
" " work completed	...	74
" " " " during 1956	...	33
Value of grants approved to date	...	£29,381
" " " " during 1956	...	£13,584
Preliminary visits and consultation	...	94
Visits to work in progress	...	292

#### Slum Clearance Programme

After consultation between your Housing and Public Health Committee on the availability of sites and the unfit houses return, it was decided to proceed with the programme at Whissonsett, Bintree and Swanton Morley. Individual demolition orders under Section 11 were made in each case, and replacement dwellings were under construction at the end of the year.

During the year as a result of action carried out by the owners 13 properties were removed from the Slum Clearance Programme.

Total houses scheduled under the programme	...	689
No. dealt with during 1956	...	57
Houses remaining		<u>632</u>

When consideration was given to making demolition orders on a row of three cottages in The Street, at Whissonsett, owned by Mr. Castell, your Public Health Committee felt that a scheme could be prepared to bring them up to standard. An outline scheme was accepted by the Council for the purchase of the cottages at the District Valuer's valuation and for their repair and improvement subject to grant from the Ministry of Housing & Local Government. Work is proceeding with the submission of such a scheme for grant approval.

### Food Premises

The main provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations came into force on 1st. January and further provisions on the 1st. July. Prior to his retirement Mr. Edwards visited all the establishments in the district which would come within the scope of the Regulations and acquainted them with the general requirements. There is much work to be done by the department in this respect, but owing to the changeover and staff shortage I was able to do very little during my period of office. 161 visits were made in connection with these Regulations.

No. of food premises in the area ... 186

No. of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955,

(a) Ice Cream	...	51
(b) Sausages, etc.	...	10

No. of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 - 1954 ... 13

No. of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary ... 159

No educational activities are carried out.

Method of disposal of condemned food - Meat coloured and collected by hide and condemned meat Contractor. Canned foods pierced and collected by refuse collectors.

No special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been found necessary.

There are no producers in the district under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 52.

### Meat Inspection

No. of licensed slaughterhouses ... 9

No. of visits ... 164

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	446	485	1307	Nil
Number inspected	227	146	314	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci				
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	35	4	9	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.04	2.74	3.17	Nil

	Cattle	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	5	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.76	Nil	1.93	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

### Ice Cream Sampling

Samples of Ice Cream and Iced Lollies submitted for examination are as follows :-

Ice Cream	Grade 1 ... ...	12
Iced Lollies - Satisfactory	... ...	12
Inspections made	...	20

### Petroleum Acts

3 New licences were issued and 7 inspections were made in connection with the new installations.

## Milk - Special Designations

Dealers Licences to use designation T.T.	...	12
" " " " " pasteurised	...	8
" " " " " sterilised	...	5
Supplementary Licences to use designation T.T.	...	3
" " " " " pasteurised	...	5
Visits to milk retailers	...	6

In all cases where designated milk licences are in force, the milk is purchased in bottle from wholesale dairies outside the district.

## Factories Act, 1937 -1948

109 visits were made of Factories, and details of these and action taken in respect of these regulations are included at the end of the Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

R. L. BARKER

Engineer & Public Health Inspector.



